№ 8.

A Perfect Narrative OF THE APPREHENSION, TRYAL, and CONFESSION OF

The Five ſeveral Perſons that were Confederates in Stealing the Mace and the Two Privy Purſes from the Lord High Chancellour of ENGLAND.

As it was Atteſted at the Seſſions held at *Juſtice-Hall* in the *Old-Bayly*, the Seventh and Eighth of *March*; *Anno.* 167$\frac{7}{7}$.

BODLEIAN LIBRARY

With Permiſſion.

Printed for *E. Oliver*, at the Golden-Key on *Snow-hill*, over-againſt St. *Sepulchres-Church*. MDCLXXVII.

A Perfect Narrative of the Apprehenſion, Tryal, and Confeſſion of the Five Several Perſons that were Confederates in Stealing the Mace and the Two Privy Purſes, from the Lord High Chancellour of *England*, &c.

MAny and Intollerable are the Injuries and abuſes that are committed almoſt dayly within the City and Suburbs of London, I need not run no further to find out Examples that may equallize the Barbarian Infidel, do but conſider in what Sphear we move; with double diligence our Natives run to haſten others and their own diſtruction; one Brother can't put confidence in another, but ſtill is fearful, leaſt he ſhould betray him; one Neighbour hates another, and are grown ſo Implacable and almoſt Incorrigible, that did not timely Juſtice Supercede, no man could find a ſafety in his own Caſtle: the ſuper-viewing of each Seſſions will demonſtrate the Vices and Perverſeneſs of our Times.

But not to Derrigate too far from the Intended Subject of this Preſent Narrative; I ſhall give you an Account of the Audacious Burglary that was Committed on My Lord

Chancellour, the Sixth of *February*, being Tueſday-Night, One Thouſand Six Hundred Seventy Six, and the Parties that were Apprehended the Saturday-night following.

The manner of their Apprehenſion was thus. Some of the head of the gang had taken a Lodging in *Knight-Riders-Street*, neer *Doctors-commons*; and there in a cloſet they had lodged the Mace and Purſes.

The Womans Daughter of the Houſe, going up in their abſence to make the bed, ſaw ſome ſilver Spangles, and ſome odd ends of Silver ſcattered about the Chamber, which ſhe with no ſmall diligence pickt up, not knowing from whence ſuch Riches ſhould proceed, in this Admiration ſhe paus'd a while, and 'twas not long before her Fancy led her (like the reſt of her Sex) to pry into, and ſearch the furthermoſt point of this new and ſtrange Apparition, and directing her courſe to the Cloſet-Door, ſhe through the Key-hole could Deſcern ſomething that was not commonly repreſented to her view; which was the upper end of the Mace, but

GUILDHALL LIBRARY LONDON

knew not what it was; however ſhe thought it could not be amiſs to acquaint her beloved Mother with what ſhe had beheld; and with this reſolve ſhe haſtens down Stairs, and with a voice 'twixt fear and joy, ſhe thus crys out; *Oh Mother! Mother! Yonders the Kings Crown in our cloſet! Pray Mother come along with me and ſee it.*

The admiring Mother being ſomething ſurprized at her Daughters Relation, as alſo having no good opinion of her new Lodgers, makes haſt (good VVoman) and goes to the Cloſet-door, and opening the Lock with a Knife, ſhe enter'd into the Cloſet, where ſhe ſoon diſcern'd that it was not a Crown, but a Mace; and having heard that ſuch a thing was loſt, ſends immediately away to acquaint my Lord Chancellour that the Mace was in her Houſe; upon which information, a Warrant was ſoon granted, and Officers ſent to Mr. *Thomas Northy*, Conſtable of Queenhive-Ward, who with a ſufficient aſſiſtance went into *Knight-Riders-ſtreet* to their Lodging, and very luckily found them, being

Five

Five in Number, and of both Sexes, *Viz.* Three Men, and Two Women; whom they carried before the Right Worſhipful, Sir *William Turner*, who after Examination (according to Juſtice) committed them to the common Goal of *Newgate*.

At the Seſſions held in the *Old Bayly*, beginning the Seventh day of this Inſtant *March*. The Five Priſoners aforeſaid were firſt call'd to the Barr, where according to the cuſtome of *England* they were bid to hold up their hands, and ask'd whether Guilty or not Guilty, they all reply'd ſeverally, *Not Guilty*. After that the Witneſſes were Sworn and Examined, who very manifeſtly proved the fact, the Woman and her Daughter where they lodg'd being two great Evidences againſt them.

After this the principle of thoſe Malefactors, a perſon very well known in court, having *been* Arraign'd at the ſame Barr five or ſix ſeveral times before, very confidently ſpeaks to the Bench in this manner: *My Lord, I own the fact, 'twas I, and this Man* (pointing to one that ſtood by him at the Barr) *that rob'd my Lord Chancellor,*

and

and the other three are clear of the fact, though I cannot ſay but they were Confederates with us in the concealment of the Prize after it was taken. This I declare (ſaid he) *to the Honourable Bench, that I may be clear of the blood of theſe other three Perſons.* The Bench and all Spectators elſe admir'd to hear him thus confidently declare himſelf guilty before Examination, knowing that the Fact was of ſo high a Nature, and without all doubt would prove capital; However the Court went on in a legal way, and another Witneſs begun to demonſtrate in what manner he was taken; to whom the Priſoner anſwer'd in this manner. *Prithee Fellow do not make ſuch a long Narration of my being taken, thou ſeeſt I am here, and I own that I and this Man* (as aforeſaid) *are Guilty of the Fact.*

With that the other Priſoner whom he thus impeach'd, endeavour'd to clear himſelf after this manner: *My Lord,* ſaid he, *this Man meeting me in* Pauls-Church-Yard, *ask'd me to go and drink, with whom I went, and after we were ſeated, he told me that he knew of a Booty would make me ſmile, telling me of the Mace and Purſes; and further ſaying*

that

GUILDHALL LIBRARY LONDON

that if I would be his aſſiſtant he would give me my ſhare of the Prize. To whom the Priſoner aforeſaid, made this reply in open Court; *Yes, My Lord, I look like a Fellow that would commit a Robbery, and give him half the Prize.* At this there was a great ſhoot in the Court, but ſilence was ſtraight commanded. And the other Man with the Two Women were examin'd, who endeavour'd to clear themſelves, but ſufficient Evidence was produc'd in Court, who did atteſt that they found ſome of the Plate with them at the time of their Apprehenſion, ſo they were put to ſilence, and diſmiſt the Court for that time.

It was obſerv'd the Priſoner whom the cheif Malefactor impeach't to be equally guilty of the Fact with himſelf, had a great ſenſe of ſorrow upon him whilſt he was at the Barr, and complained to himſelf of Lewd and Laſcivious Women, ſaying that they were the cauſe of his and many other Mens ruine; which is certainly true that they are the ruine of many a hopeful Young man. *From ſuch Jade Women that brings many a Man to ſudden Death, Good Lord Deliver us all.*

FINIS.